

PATENT**REMARKS**

Claims 1-42 are pending in the present application. Claims 5, 8, 12, 26 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 1-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 9, 23, 26, 27, 28 and 30 have been amended. Claim 25 has been canceled.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Claims 5, 8, 12, 26 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office asserts that the terms "hot-keys" and "desktop" are generic terms with multiple contextual meanings.

The specification explains the term "hot-key" as a pre-defined keystroke or keystroke sequence, for example, "control-F1" or "control-F2" that is assigned to indicate a user's desire to switch among virtual displays. (Specification page 7, lines 6-8 and page 13, lines 1-7) The applicant asserts that the term "hot-key" is a term such that those skilled in the art would understand what is claimed when the claim is read in light of the specification. For this reason, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 5, 12, 26 and 33 is respectfully requested.

Note that Claim 8 refers to "system desktop." The specification describes the system desktop as the area in which a user can open and move application windows. (Specification, page 5, lines 19-20) The applicant asserts that the term "system desktop" is a term such that those skilled in the art would understand what is claimed when the claim is read in light of the specification. For this reason, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 8 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Chiraz (U.S. Pat. No. 6,411,302).

Claim 1 recites a method including storing a first set of display data in a first portion of a frame buffer, wherein the first set of display data is associated with a first virtual display; storing a second set of display data in a second portion of the frame buffer, wherein the second set of display data is associated with a second virtual display; selecting one of the first virtual display or the second virtual display to be presented by a display device; when the first virtual display is selected, providing data from the first portion of the frame buffer to a display controller for presentation on the display device; and when the second virtual display is selected, providing data from the second portion of the frame buffer to the display controller for presentation on the display device.

Chiraz discloses a method and apparatus for addressing multiple frame buffers as a single high-resolution logical frame buffer. Chiraz discloses that storing high-resolution image data in the multiple frame buffers enables the high-resolution image data to be displayed utilizing multiple standard resolution video outputs. Thus, Chiraz distributes image data across multiple standard display devices for the purpose of creating a display that is larger in size. (See Chiraz, Col. 5, lines 29-55). In contrast, the Applicant's disclose a method of initializing a multiple display configuration in a system with a display device, not multiple display devices.

Chiraz does not disclose when a first virtual display is selected, providing data from a first portion of a frame buffer to a display controller for presentation on the display device; and when the second virtual display is selected, providing data from the second portion of the frame buffer to the display controller for presentation on the display device as required by Claim 1. In contrast, Chiraz distributes image data across multiple display devices.

Because Chiraz neither discloses nor suggests a method as recited in Claim 1, Claim 1 is necessarily not anticipated and non-obvious over Chiraz. For this reason, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is requested, and allowance of independent Claim 1 is respectfully solicited. Claims 2-8 depend from allowable Claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Amended Claim 9 recites a method including determining a number of virtual displays in a plurality of virtual displays to be supported; partitioning a frame buffer into a plurality of frame buffer portions, wherein the plurality of frame buffer portions include a first frame buffer portion associated with a first virtual display of the plurality of virtual displays and a second frame buffer portion associated with a second virtual display of the plurality of virtual displays; reporting the number of virtual displays as a number of display devices; providing a first address associated with the first frame buffer portion, wherein the first address is reported as an address of a first frame buffer associated with a first display device; and providing a second address associated with the second frame buffer portion, wherein the second address is reported as an address of a second frame buffer associated with a second display device; wherein each of the number of virtual displays is to be displayed on a same display device.

Chiraz does not disclose displaying each of multiple displays on a same display device as required by Amended Claim 9. In contrast, Chiraz distributes image data across multiple display devices.

Because Chiraz neither discloses nor suggests a method as recited in Claim 9, Claim 9 is necessarily not anticipated and non-obvious over Chiraz. For this reason, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 9 is requested, and allowance of independent Claim 9 is respectfully solicited. Claims 10-22 depend from allowable Claim 9 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 23 has been amended to include elements from canceled Claim 25. Amended Claim 23 recites a system including a data processor having an input/output buffer; memory having an input/output buffer coupled to the input/output buffer of the data processor, said memory having a program of instructions including: a display driver to: report a multiple display configuration, wherein said multiple display configuration includes support for a plurality of virtual displays; partition a frame buffer into a plurality of frame buffer portions; assign a different virtual display of the plurality of virtual displays to each of the frame buffer portions of the plurality of frame buffer portions; a video controller coupled to the input/output buffer of the data processor, said video controller having: a frame buffer having the plurality of frame buffer portions, wherein each frame buffer portion of the plurality of frame buffer portions is to store display data associated with an assigned virtual display of the plurality of virtual displays; and a display controller to provide display data from a frame buffer portion of the plurality of frame buffer portions to a display device; wherein said display driver selects from the plurality of virtual displays dependent on an event trigger.

The Office states that Chiraz discloses selecting one of the first virtual display or the second virtual display includes identifying an event trigger at Col. 16, lines 35-48. However, at the cited location, Chiraz is describing the initialization of multiple display controllers. Initializing multiple display controllers is not the same as selecting from the plurality of virtual displays as recited in amended Claim 23. Further, Chiraz does not disclose an event trigger. A software routine stepping through the initialization of various registers is not an event trigger. Further, Chiraz discloses multiple display controllers, one for each of multiple displays. In contrast, the Applicant's disclose a method of initializing a multiple display configuration in a system with a single display device.

Because Chiraz neither discloses nor suggests a system as recited in amended Claim 23, Claim 23 is necessarily not anticipated and non-obvious over Chiraz. For this reason, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 23 is requested, and allowance of independent Claim 23 is respectfully solicited. Claims 24-30 depend from allowable Claim 23 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Amended Claim 30 recites computer readable medium tangibly embodying a program of instructions, said program of instructions including instructions to: determine a number of virtual displays in a plurality of virtual displays to be supported; partition a frame buffer into a plurality of frame buffer portions, wherein the plurality of frame buffer portions include a first frame buffer portion associated with a first virtual display of the plurality of virtual displays and a second frame buffer portion associated with a second virtual display of the plurality of virtual displays; report the number of virtual displays as a number of display devices in a multiple display configuration; provide a first address associated with the first frame buffer portion, wherein the first address is reported as an address of a first frame buffer associated with a first display device of the multiple display configuration; provide a second address associated with the second frame buffer portion, wherein the second address is reported as an address of a second frame buffer associated with a second display device of the multiple display configuration, select one of the first virtual display or the second virtual display; wherein each of the number of virtual displays is to be displayed on a same display device.

Chiraz does not disclose displaying each of multiple displays on a same display device as required by Amended Claim 30. In contrast, Chiraz distributes image data across multiple display devices.

Because Chiraz neither discloses nor suggests a computer readable medium as recited in Claim 30, Claim 30 is necessarily not anticipated and non-obvious over Chiraz. For this reason, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 30 is requested, and allowance of independent Claim 30 is respectfully solicited. Claims 31-42 depend from allowable Claim 30 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the Applicant(s) would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to issue a formal Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Sept. 4, 2003
Date

Rita M. Wisor
Rita M. Wisor, Reg. No. 41,382
Attorney for Applicant(s)
TOLER, LARSON & ABEL, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 29567
Austin, Texas 78755-9567
(512) 327-5515 (phone)
(512) 327-5452 (fax)